

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: EUR 45/028/2004 (Public)
News Service No: 287
12 November 2004

United Kingdom: UN Committee against torture examines UK's report Note to the media

The UN Committee against Torture will examine the United Kingdom's (UK) fourth periodic report on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention against Torture) on 17 and 18 November 2004 in Geneva.

Amnesty International will take this opportunity to brief the members of the UN Committee about its concerns regarding the serious human rights violations that have taken place in the context of the UK authorities' response to the 11 September 2001 attacks in the USA. In particular the organization is concerned that UK authorities are violating the prohibition against the use of statements obtained through torture as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture.

Amnesty International is also concerned that people held in high security establishments under severely restrictive regimes under Part 4 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCSA) are being subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. These people have been effectively "charged" with a criminal offence, "convicted" and "sentenced" to an indefinite term of imprisonment without a trial under the shadow criminal justice system.

A representative of Amnesty International will be present at the review of the UK's report by the Committee and available for interviews on the organization's concerns.

The media and non-governmental organizations are allowed to attend but are not allowed to participate in the proceedings.

Time: 1100 - 1300 hrs, Wednesday 17 November 2004
1500 - 1800 hrs, Thursday 18 November 2004

Venue: Room XI
Palais des Nations, Geneva

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